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Inventory for

Manuscript Collection
MS - 9

Henry W. Swanton Papers

1829-1903

by
Elisabeth Meier
April 2018

4 boxes and 2 oversize boxes
3.5 linear feet
Accession no. 66.1848-1856, 66.1858-1859, 71.52, and 98.124

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Abstract

Henry W. Swanton (1833-1904)
Zina Hyde & Co. (1832-1871)
Swanton, Jameson Company (1871-1910)
Eastern Steamboat Company (1867-1901)
Goss Marine Iron Works (1882-1889)
Papers, 1829-1903
4 ½ boxes plus two oversize boxes
Ship chandler and businessman in Bath, Maine

This collection is comprised of account books, inventories, and letter copy books related to Henry W. Swanton's many business interests. The bulk of the collection is from the Swanton, Jameson Company and its predecessor, Zina Hyde & Company, a ship chandlery that operated in Bath for over a century. The collection also contains cashbooks and ledgers from the Goss Marine Iron Works and the Eastern Steamboat Company, as well as a daybook from an unidentified Bath grocer and dry goods merchant. Aside from one letter copy book of Henry W. Swanton's private business correspondence, there is no personal material.

Gifts of Ivan A. Trueworthy and Laurent T. du Pont
MS-009. Accession #66.1848-1856, 66.1858-1859, 71.52, and 98.124
Finding aid (folder level control) in repository

Added entries—persons:
Hyde, Zina (1787-1856)
Jameson, John C. (1821-1910)
Jameson, Edward D. (1862-1935)
Low, Gilman A., Captain (1838-1917)
Low, Herbert, Captain (1827-1904)
Swanton, John Bosworth (1804-1890)
Swanton, Henry W. (1833-1904)

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):
Annie Sargent (schooner)
Creedmore (screw steamer)
Eastern Steamboat Company
Goss Marine Iron Works
Laurena (steamer, yacht)
Samoset (screw steamer)
Sasanoa (screw steamer)
Sebenoa (screw steamer)
Spray (steamer)
Swanton, Jameson Company
Zina Hyde & Co.

Added entries—key terms:
Account books
Bath (ME) – Businesses
Dry-goods
Fishing – equipment and supplies

Foundries – Bath (ME)
Grocery Trade
Naval stores
Navigation – equipment and supplies
Ship chandlers
Shipbuilding – equipment and supplies
Ships – equipment and supplies
Steam-engines
Steamboat lines
Stores – Bath (ME)

Acquisition

Ivan A. Trueworthy donated all but one of these volumes to the museum in two separate gifts, one in 1966 and one in 1971. Trueworthy lived at 888 Middle Street in Bath, a house previously owned by Henry W. Swanton. The remaining volume, a ledger kept by the Swanton, Jameson Co. chandlery from 1897 to 1898, was given to the museum by Laurent T. du Pont in 1998.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

The covers are battered on most volumes, and many have been heavily repaired with library tape. Some have no covers at all. A few of the volumes have suffered water damage or losses to mice. The ink remains legible in all volumes, however, and the text blocks are in stable condition.

Processing Notes

Although Henry W. Swanton likely did not keep most of these account books himself, they have been processed together because he had strong ties to the companies represented. There are only two volumes in Ivan Trueworthy's gifts that have no identifiable link to Swanton: one, an account book for the Bath shoemaker and slop-seller James Farrin, has been removed to MS-322; the other, from an unidentified Bath merchant, has been kept here out of respect for provenance.

Related Materials

More information on Zina Hyde can be found in MS-35, which contains his journals and other family material. Further material on the Eastern Steamboat Company is in MS-8, the James B. Drake Papers.

Historical Note

Henry W. Swanton was born in Bath in 1833. He was the son of John Bosworth Swanton (1804-1890), a successful ship chandler, and Catharine Wood Reed. Henry joined his father as a partner in the Swanton, Jameson Company chandlery, but also took an active role in a variety of other businesses. He sat on the board of the Eastern Steamboat Company, Goss Marine Iron Works, First National Bank, and Bath Savings Institution, and had interests in real estate and a steam heating company on the side. Swanton was also politically active, serving as a city councilman, alderman, and state senator representing Bath, and a leading member of the New Jerusalem Society of the Swedenborgian Church. He died in 1904.

The Swanton, Jameson Company chandlery was founded some thirty years before Henry W. Swanton was born. It closed more than a century later, six years after Swanton's death. It began as a general store run by Jonathan Hyde, who moved to Bath in 1799, and his brother Zina (1787-1856), who joined him from Lebanon, Connecticut in 1802. By the 1820s, the brothers were specializing in ship chandlery, advertising a constant supply of cordage, canvas, naval stores, paints, nautical instruments, navigational charts, and fishing gear alongside their general grocery and dry goods business.[1]

Jonathan Hyde left the chandlery in the 1820s. Zina Hyde carried on by himself for a few years before forming a partnership with John Bosworth Swanton (1804-1890) in 1831. John C. Jameson (1821-1910) joined them, under the name Zina Hyde & Co., some years later. The partners operated their ship chandlery from a frame building on the north-east corner of Front and Broad Streets, from which they also owned and managed a number of Bath ships.

In 1871, the frame chandlery building was torn down and the store, now renamed Swanton, Jameson Co., moved into the grand brick Hyde Block that replaced it. (The Hyde Block is now home to Bath Savings.) The chandlery flourished with Bath's shipping business and expanded into a more general range of hardware as the industry waned. Swanton, Jameson Co. finally closed in 1910.

The Eastern Steamboat Company was founded in 1867 to provide regular steamship service between Bath and Boothbay Harbor. Henry W. Swanton was the treasurer of the new company; fellow Bath chandler Samuel D. Bailey served as president. They began with two steamers, the *Spray*, which had started sailing the Bath-Boothbay route in 1866, and the *Sasanoa*, built new for the service. The Eastern Steamboat Company regularly commissioned new steamers for its flagship route, including the *Samoset* (1874), *Sebenoa* (1880), and *Wiwurna* (1884). Most of these new vessels were commanded by Gilman A. or Herbert Low, two brothers from Georgetown, Maine, who stayed with the line for decades. Older and smaller steamers were put onto subsidiary routes between Bath and Fort Popham, at the mouth of the Kennebec, or to nearby islands.

In the 1890s, the Kennebec Steamship Company acquired a majority interest in the Eastern Steamboat Company and began to manage the smaller line. Charles W. Morse purchased both concerns in 1901 and merged them, alongside several other Maine lines, into the Eastern Steamship Company. The Eastern Steamship Company operated until 1955.

The Goss Marine Iron Works was founded in 1882 by a group of Bath's leading businessmen, including Thomas W. Hyde, Arthur Sewall, Charles Davenport, and Guy C. Goss. Henry W. Swanton was the firm's treasurer. The new company was intended to produce marine

[1] William Baker, *A Maritime History of Bath, Maine* (Portland, ME: Anthoensen Press, 1973), 311.

engines and boilers for Bath-built ships, part of a larger effort to modernize the town's shipbuilding capacity. Goss Marine Iron Works did produce a string of sophisticated engines, including the first triple expansion steam engine built in America, but, undercapitalized and launched at the beginning of a collapse in Bath's shipping industry, it was a financial failure. Thomas W. Hyde purchased the nearly-bankrupt firm in 1888 and added its engine-building capacity to the infant Bath Iron Works.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains account books, inventories, and letter copy books from Henry W. Swanton, Swanton, Jameson Company, the Eastern Steamboat Company, the Goss Marine Iron Works, and an unidentified Bath merchant.

The bulk of the collection is from the Swanton, Jameson Co. ship chandlery and its predecessor, Zina Hyde & Co. The earliest volume here is a waste book kept from 1832 to 1841 which includes a detailed account of vessels, captains, and the merchandise they purchased. This volume also contains dozens of hand-copied newspaper articles from early nineteenth century Maine papers. The remaining account books, all from the late nineteenth century, are summaries that do not itemize goods purchased. However, detailed inventories list the firm's stock in hand for many years between 1860 and 1903, and letter copy books record the chandlery's constant correspondence with suppliers and, occasionally, customers. Two books of 'averages' list the partners' accounts with the chandlery in the 1870s and 1880s.

A letter copy book kept by Henry W. Swanton contains correspondence about his various business affairs outside of Swanton, Jameson Co. This includes letters about real estate, installing steam heat, the New Jerusalem Society, the Eastern Steamboat Company, and state legislation.

Material for the Goss Marine Iron Works consists of two volumes, a ledger and a cash book, kept between 1882 and 1888. These detail the company's organization and early production, including engines built, labor expenses, machinery, tools, and office furniture purchased, and the loans that kept the concern running.

The Eastern Steamboat Company is also represented by a ledger and a cash book kept during the first fifteen years of the line's operation. The ledger gives an overall account of the company's business; the cash book a more detailed record of the operation of the *Spray* (screw steamer), *Sasanoa* (screw steamer), and *Samoset* (screw steamer).

The final volume in the collection is a daybook from an unidentified grocer and dry goods merchant, apparently from Bath, kept between 1829 and 1830. The book lists transactions for local produce, imported items like molasses, tea, silk, and calico, and other domestic goods.

Box and Folder List

1. Henry W. Swanton

Box	Folder	
1	1	Henry W. Swanton, letter copy book, 1893-1903

2. Hyde/Swanton, Jameson Chandlery

		Zina Hyde & Co., waste book, 1832-1851 (oversize, removed to box 6)
		Inclusions from waste book (oversize, removed to box 6)
1	2	Swanton, Jameson Co., account books, summary day book, 1893-1895
		Ledger, 1897-1898 (oversize, removed to box 7)
	3	Cash book, 1901-1903
	4	Averages, 1874-1887
		Averages, 1874-1888 (oversize, removed to box 6)
2	1	Inventories, 1860-1870
	2	1890
	3	1897
	4	1900
3	1	1902
	2	Index, 1903
	3	Undated
	4	Letter copy book, 1874-1875
4	1	1882-1884
	2	1884-1885

3. Goss Marine Iron Works

4	3	Goss Marine Iron Works, ledger, 1882-1886
		Cash book, 1883-1888 (oversize, removed to box 6)

4. Eastern Steamboat Company

5	1	Eastern Steamboat Company, ledger, 1871-1881
	2	Cash book, 1871-1877

5. Unidentified

5	3	Dry goods merchant, day book, 1829-1830

Oversize Material

Box	Folder	
6	1	Zina Hyde & Co., waste book, 1832-1851
	2	Inclusions from waste book
	3	Swanton, Jameson Co., averages, 1874-1888
	4	Goss Marine Iron Works, cash book, 1883-1888
7	1	Swanton, Jameson Co., ledger, 1897-1898